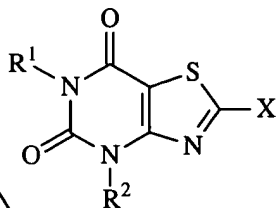


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein R<sup>1</sup> is -Z-A wherein Z is (a) C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>7</sub> alkyl, optionally comprising 1-2 double bonds, 1-2 nonperoxide O or 1-2 NR wherein R is individually H, phenyl, benzyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkanoyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl; (b) C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> cycloalkyl; (c) C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> cycloalkyl C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub> alkyl; (d) C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> aryl; or (e) C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> aryl C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>3</sub> alkyl;

A is N(R)<sub>2</sub>, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> acyloxy, SO<sub>3</sub>H, PO<sub>4</sub>H<sub>2</sub>, NNO(OH), SO<sub>2</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>, PO(OH)NH<sub>2</sub>, OH, SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>3</sup> tetrazolyl, or COOR<sup>3</sup> wherein R<sup>3</sup> is H, phenyl, benzyl or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl optionally substituted with 1-2 OR, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> heteroaryl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> aryl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkenyl, phenyl, tetrazolyl or OZ wherein Z is an ester of an amino acid;

R<sup>2</sup> is a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl, C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkenyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> aryl C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl or C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> heteroaryl C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub> alkyl;

X is H, halo, OR, SR, N<sub>3</sub> or N(R)<sub>2</sub>; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. The compound of claim 1 wherein Z is (C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl or phenyl.

3. The compound of claim 1 or 2 wherein A is CO<sub>2</sub>R.

4. The compound of claim 3 wherein R<sup>3</sup> is H or (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, optionally substituted with OH, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> heteroaryl or OZ, wherein Z is an ester of an amino acid.

5. The compound of claim 4 wherein Z is an L-valine residue or L-glycine residue.

6. The compound of claim 4 wherein Z is 4-pyridyl.

7. The compound of claim 1 or 2 wherein R<sup>1</sup> is ethoxycarbonylpropyl.

8. The compound of claim 1 or 2 wherein X is NH<sub>2</sub>.

9. The compound of claim 1 or 2 wherein R<sup>2</sup> is CH<sub>3</sub> or CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>.

10. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound of claim 1 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

11. A therapeutical method for treating a pathological condition associated with TNF $\alpha$  release comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment an amount of a compound of claim 1 effective to treat said pathological condition.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein said condition comprises a pathological inflammatory response.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein said inflammatory response is due to arthritis.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein said inflammatory response is due to an autoimmune disease.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein said autoimmune disease is rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis, asthma, psoriasis or inflammatory bowel disease.

16. The method of claim 11 wherein said condition comprises cardiomyopathy or congestive heart failure.

17. The method of claim 11 wherein said condition comprises insulin-resistant diabetes.

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